



## Paducah Citizens Advisory Board

"working for the future"

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### Recommendation 13-06: Communications Strategy

July 18, 2013

#### **Background**

The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) was built as part of a United States Government program to produce enriched uranium to fuel military reactors and produce nuclear weapons. The mission of the PGDP changed in the 1960s, when the plant began to enrich uranium for use in commercial nuclear reactors to generate electricity. The Paducah Plant has been in continuous operation since it first went on line in 1952 and has processed an estimated 1,000,000 tons of uranium.

As legislated in the Energy Policy Act of 1992, the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) was formed as a government corporation to restructure and operate the United States Government's uranium enrichment business and prepare it for privatization. In May 1999 USEC took over direct operation of the PGDP. USEC assumed responsibility for enrichment operations and currently leases the enrichment facilities from the Department of Energy (DOE). USEC recently ceased enrichment operations and has begun the task of shutting down the enrichment process equipment.

Recent meetings with senior DOE officials by a delegation of local elected officials, the governor of the Commonwealth, and others amply demonstrated that the current communications between the DOE and the community is inadequate.

#### **Recommendation**

**The Paducah Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) feels it is vital that the DOE keep community stakeholders informed of ongoing activities and future strategies at the PGDP. The DOE should:**

- **Appoint local point(s) of contact for consistent messaging of DOE communications.**
- **Communicate, on at least a monthly basis, developments, decisions, and actions associated with the shutdown process, transition, and post-turnover of the PGDP. For example, stakeholders should be apprised of the condition in which the plant has been shut down, how and when the plant will be transitioned to the DOE.**
- **Communicate, on at least a monthly basis, the DOE's immediate and future plans for the site including processes for Expression Of Interest/Request For Offers, Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity, property transfer**
- **Provide monthly progress reports focusing on upcoming events according to the *2010 Uranium Enrichment D&D Fund Report***

**To keep community stakeholders adequately informed, the DOE should:**

- **Use communications bulletins and fact sheets, both electronic and hardcopy**
- **Use press briefings and press releases**
- **Conduct stakeholder meetings in local areas surrounding the plant, as warranted**
- **Develop a website or expand the <http://www.pgdpcleanup.com> website to include current information relevant to plant shutdown, transition, and post-turnover.**
- **Keep website current**

- **Make public aware of website and contents**
- **DOE should be transparent in all of its communications to stakeholders**